(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the books declared as National Literature during the last five years; and

(d) the proposals received by Government to declare books as National Literature?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. At present there is no formal categorisation as 'National Literature'.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Condition of historical monuments in Bihar and Maharashtra

3531. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of historical monuments are in bad condition in the country, especially in Bihar and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the conditions of historical monuments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Archaeological Survey of India protects and maintains 3667 notified monuments of national importance including 70 protected monuments in the State of Bihar and 286 protected monuments in the State of Maharashtra which are in a good state of preservation.

Conservation of the ancient monuments is a continuous process. Under the Annual Conservation Programme, the Archaeological Survey of India takes up conservation, preservation, maintenance and environmental development of the Monuments of national importance.

Establishment of Moh. Zina House, Mumbai

3532. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Asia Art and Culture Centre is to be established in Moh. Zina House, Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed Centre is to be utilised as a platform for SAARC countries; and

(d) what are the arrangement and plans of finances for establishing such a Centre in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposed South Asia Centre for Art and Culture is intended to serve as a hub for promoting creative, intellectual and cultural exchanges among South Asian and other adjacent countries. It is however not a SAARC mandated body.

(d) The setting up of the Centre is being fully financed by the Ministry of External Affairs. The Centre will be administered by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

Centrally protected monuments in Rajasthan

3533. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally protected monuments in various districts of Rajasthan;

(b) the amount spent on the construction, preservation and maintenance of each of these monuments during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the State Government of Rajasthan had requested the Central Government to include some more monuments located in various districts as Centrally protected; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) District-wise list of 160 Centrally protected monuments/sites in the State of Rajasthan and the expenditure incurred during the last three years for their conservation, preservation, maintenance and environmental development as per requirement identified for each monument is given in Statement (*see* below).